

Chicago Coin Club Bulletin



Annual Number
1947

With the Compliments of

F. K. SAAB

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CHICAGO 80, ILLINOIS

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Rare Coins of All Countries

CHICAGO COIN CLUB ANNUAL BULLETIN



Our 25th Anniversary Medal struck in 1944

VOL. X

1 9 4 7

Officers and Directors – 1947

I. T. Kopicki	President
Glenn R. Ostrander	First Vice-President
Mrs. Caroline Merkel	Second Vice-President
Earl C. Brown	Secretary-Treasurer
Earl F. Barger	Director
M. Vernon Sheldon	Director
Dr. Joseph P. Reich	Director

Past Presidents

C. N. Hinckley	1919	William G. Rayson	1937—1938
Alden Scott Boyer	1919—1927	Robert L. McBrien	1939—1940
Dr. Al. M. Rackus	1928	Edmund E. Lamb	1941—1942
R. Edward Davis	1929—1932	Paul Pennington	1943—1944
J. Henri Ripstra	1933—1936	Earl F. Barger	1945—1946

Past Secretaries

R. Edward Davis	1919—1927	M. Vernon Sheldon	1937—1938
Elmer Lawless	1928—1930	I. T. Kopicki	1939—1941
I. T. Kopicki	1931	Clifford Lindall	1942—1943
M. A. Powills	1932	Glenn R. Ostrander	1944—1946
R. Edward Davis	1933—1936		

Charter Members

1. R. Edward Davis*	12. Harry Williams*	23. Albert Madlener*
2. Fred Becker (r)	13. T. E. Leon*	24. L. P. Josephson*
3. Fred Michael*	14. S. Archie Hamilton*	25. M. P. Carey‡
4. Louis DeCou*	15. C. N. Hinckley*	26. Judson Brenner*
5. George H. Blake‡	16. Al. M. Rackus, M.D. (d)	27. Harry T. Wilson*
6. A. Atlas Leve (d)	17. W. R. Dunham*	28. Mrs. J. Henri Ripstra‡
7. Alden Scott Boyer‡	18. Ernest Jonas‡	29. J. G. M. Luttenberger*
8. Swan Nelson*	19. Sigmund Krausz*	30. Bert Baumann (r)
9. J. Henri Ripstra‡	20. J. T. Kelley (d)	31. George F. Brown‡
10. Albert W. Morris‡	21. Wm. Bartholemey Jr. (r)	32. B. Max Mehl‡
11. Marie A. Naerup (d)	22. Arthur Miller (r)	33. Elmer Lawless (d)

‡ Still Members; * Deceased; (r) resigned; (d) dropped

1947 Committees

Attendance: Joseph Unseitig.

Auction: Auctioneers: Messrs. Rayson and Shugrue.

Material: Messrs. Lindall, Ostrander, Brown and Schwartz.

Banquet: Messrs. Powills, Shugrue and Boosel.

Exhibits: Messrs. Smedley, Pennington and Gustafson.

Entertainment: Messrs. Lamb, Keevers, Sheldon, Miller, Grant, Rayson, Klein, Barger, McBrien, Ripstra, Hewitt, Powills, Pennington and Mrs. Merkel.

Finance and Auditing: Messrs. Henry, Ostrander and Rutz.

Grievance: Messrs. Ripstra, Lamb and Rayson.

Ladies' Activities: Mrs. Merkel.

Librarian: Fred A. Clarke.

Membership: Messrs. Sheldon, Lindall and Pennington.

Publication: Messrs. Molnar, Reich, Rayson and Green.

Sergeants-at-Arms: Messrs. Carlson and Amidon.

President's Message

In accepting the high office of presidency of your Club, I am reminded of those immortal words of our dean of numismatists, William Rayson, who in his installation speech said: "that this Club is formed for the purpose of perpetuating numismatic friendship and encouraging such worthy and appropriate purposes as may from time to time be suggested and approved."

It is the desire of your officers and the board to carry on these ideals. In directing the activities of your Club for the last 12 months, I recognize that we have a responsibility in maintaining the high standards established by the past presidents in continuing the friendship and perpetuating the traditions of a great numismatic fraternity.

Since the publication of our last Annual Bulletin in 1944, the Chicago Coin Club has emerged to new heights numismatically. We have the honor of having our membership represented in various official capacities in the A.N.A. Further proof of our numismatic activities is a statement made at one of our regular meetings by a distinguished London numismatist namely, Mr. H. A. Seaby, that "Chicago is one of the most unique active coin collecting groups in the world." Another of our numismatic activities was the September meeting which was held in the Museum of Science and Industry in Jackson Park, as guests of Major Lenox Lohr. Attention must be called to National Coin Week, which was so successfully accomplished by our members with their various exhibits throughout the city. The fact that the participating members were awarded major prizes for their efforts should spur all of us to try to make the 1948 National Coin Week a banner event for all Chicago numismatists.

A word of thanks must be given our auction committee for their untiring efforts in making our meetings worthwhile attending. It was their objective to have the sales packed with choice lots and a snappy sale. Your chairman of exhibits requests that more members avail themselves of the opportunity to exhibit their collections at monthly meetings. The ladies of the Club are given mythical orchids for their efforts in attending meetings regularly, especially the sponsorship of Ladies' Night, which was so successful this year. Your banquet committee also deserves a word of thanks and praise for its efforts. Our thanks to the Publication Committee for reviving the publishing of the Annual Bulletin.

Your officers, board, and various committees are to be complimented for their wonderful cooperation and guidance shown the president in the course of the past year.

In closing, our heartfelt condolences are extended to the families of the members who have departed from our midst in the course of the year: B. G. Johnson, Ragnar Cederlund, and Albert Madlener.

My personal best wishes and friendly numismatic greetings to all the members for the coming new year.

—I. T. KOPICKI, President.

Our Advertisers

Our sincere thanks to those whose advertisements help make our Bulletins possible. Club members can show their appreciation of the interest and support given by our advertisers by patronizing them.

Constitution and By-Laws

of the

Chicago Coin Club

Organized — January 10, 1919

Incorporated — January 19, 1938

Branch No. 1 of the American Numismatic Association

ARTICLE I

Name and Object

Section 1. This organization shall be known as the **Chicago Coin Club**, incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois as a non-pecuniary organization.

Section 2. Its object shall be to study and further researches in numismatics, and, promote educational activities incident to the collecting of coins, medals, paper money, et cetera; and, through fraternalism in regular meetings disseminate numismatic knowledge, to publish numismatic literature and maintain a numismatic library.

ARTICLE II

Membership

Section 1. Any person over eighteen years of age and interested in numismatics shall be eligible for membership.

Section 2. The Membership of this Club shall be divided into three classes: Resident Members, Associate Members and Non-Resident Members. The first class shall comprise those who are residents of Cook County, Illinois; to it shall belong the control of the organization and from it all officers shall be elected. The second class to comprise wives or daughters of members. The third class shall comprise those who are not residents of Cook County, Illinois. (See Article III, Section 2.)

Section 3. Application for membership shall be made in writing, accompanied with the required amount of dues, and submitted for reading at a regular meeting, but shall not be acted upon until the next regular meeting.

Section 4. Those who became members or applied for membership at or prior to the regular meeting of March 5, 1919 shall be known as Charter Members.

Section 5. A membership number shall be assigned to each member. Membership numbers, having been assigned by lot to Charter Members, shall hereinafter be assigned by the Secretary in the order of election into the Organization.

ARTICLE III

Dues

Section 1. The revenue of this Club shall be derived from the dues of its members.

Section 2. Resident Members shall pay yearly dues of \$3.00, except when the member is the wife or daughter of a member; in which case the wife or daughter member shall pay yearly dues of \$1.00 but shall receive no printed matter; and Non-Resident Members shall pay yearly dues of \$1.50. All dues must be

paid in advance—semi-annually if so desired. Non-Resident Members may be classed as Resident Members upon payment of resident membership dues.

Section 3. Members sixty days in arrears of dues shall be declared delinquent and be subject to suspension.

Section 4. The power of suspension in accordance with the provisions of Article III, Section 3, shall be vested in the Board of Governors, and the procedure relative to suspensions shall be established by the Board.

ARTICLE IV

Meetings

Section 1. Regular meetings shall be held on the first Wednesday of each month.

Section 2. Five Members shall constitute a quorum.

Section 3. Visitors are privileged to attend our regular meetings twice in the course of a year, provided they are accompanied by a regular member.

ARTICLE V

Officers and Election

Section 1. The officers shall be President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer and three Directors. All seven of whom shall constitute the Governing Board and whose election shall be made in the following manner.

Section 2. The immediate Past-President automatically becomes one of the three directors for a term of one year following his term as President.

Section 3. At the regular November meeting a Nominating Committee of five Members in good standing shall be elected by ballot. Nominations for the Nominating Committee shall be made from the floor. The five Members receiving the highest number of votes shall constitute the Nominating Committee.

Section 4. The Nominating Committee shall meet within the next five days and select their Chairman. Their nominations for President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer and Directors, all of whom must be Members in good standing, and whose consent to serve has been obtained, shall be reported in writing to the Secretary so as to be included in the December meeting notice.

Section 5. Any five Members, in good standing, may at the December meeting file in writing with the Secretary nominations, with their consent to serve, for any of the elective offices.

Section 6. At the December meeting those regularly nominated shall be elected by ballot—to assume office at the next regular meeting in January.

Section 7. Each election shall be for a period of one (1) year or one term. No officer shall be elected to more than two (2) consecutive terms, except the Secretary-Treasurer which office shall be limited to three (3) consecutive terms and Directors on which there is no limitation.

ARTICLE VI

Duties of Officers

Section 1. The President shall preside at all meetings, and shall as chairman preside at all Board of Governors meetings. He shall have general supervision over the interests of the Club. He shall be empowered to appoint a Secretary-Treasurer pro tem in the event of a vacancy in that office until such time as a new Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected and installed through a regular election held specially for that purpose. The Vice-President shall act in the

absence of the President. The Second Vice-President shall act in the absence of both the President and Vice-President.

Section 2. The Board of Governors shall have full power to act for the interest of the Club, and shall meet not less than twice annually.

Section 3. The Secretary-Treasurer shall collect all dues and fees, keep a record of the minutes and proceedings of all meetings and record the attendances there-at. He shall transmit a record of all regular meetings to the American Numismatic Association editor for publication in "The Numismatist" magazine.

All money shall be deposited in a bank designated by the Board of Governors and no money shall be paid out, except for necessary postage, without the approval of the Finance Committee and the consent of the Club. Disbursements shall be made by check bearing the signatures of both President or Vice-President and Treasurer. An annual audit of the Treasurer's books shall be made in December of each year by the Finance Committee.

Section 4. Upon assuming office the President shall appoint the following Officers and Committees:

Librarian	Exhibit Committee
Sergeant-at-Arms (Two to be appointed)	Finance Committee
Attendance and Registration Committee	Grievance Committee
Auction Committee	Ladies' Activities Committee
Bulletin and Publication Committee	Membership Committee
Entertainment Committee	Publicity Committee.

ARTICLE VII
Order of Business

1. Call to Order.
2. Reading of the Minutes.
3. Introduction of Visitors.
4. Reports of Officers.
5. Application and Election to Membership.
6. Communications and Bills.
7. Unfinished Business.
8. New Business.
9. Reading of Papers.
10. Exhibits.
11. Adjournment.

ARTICLE VIII
Amendments

Section 1. This Constitution and By-Laws may be altered and amended.

Section 2. Amendments to these By-Laws shall be made in writing and read at any regular meeting, but shall be voted on at the next regular meeting after notifying all Resident-Members. A majority vote shall amend.

ARTICLE IX
Regulation

Section 1. This Club shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order where-in the By-Laws do not specifically cover the subject.

MEMBERS

As of October 20, 1947

R—Resident; NR—Non-Resident; A—Associate

All addresses are in Chicago unless otherwise stated.

- Dan R. Adan, R-324, 1100 Roscoe Street. Half Cents, Large and Small Cents, Commemorative Half Dollars.
- Raymond L. Allen, R-376, 2000 W. Van Buren Street. U.S. Coins.
- Paul E. Alm, R-395, 120 S. LaSalle Street. Uncirculated American Coins.
- Edmund S. Amidon, R-236, 2527 Ainslie Street. General American.
- Charles A. Bailey, NR-448, 628 Vermont Street, Gary, Indiana.
- Clara M. Barger, A-387, 1412 East 68th Street.
- Earl F. Barger, R-226, 1412 East 68th Street.
- Joseph E. Barr, R-420, 3642 Wesley Ave., Berwyn, Ill. Coins of the World.
- A. E. Bebee, R-370, 1180 East 63rd Street. Dealer—General.
- H. C. Bilger, R-399, 11 N. Van Buren Ave., Freeport, Ill.
- George H. Blake, NR-5, 12 Highland Ave., Jersey City 6, N.J. United States Paper Money.
- Dr. Lee A. Blank, R-432, 2611 Agatite Avenue.
- Eric G. Blomquist, R-129, 2926 N. 76th Avenue.
- Lyle A. Blood, R-271, 327 Market St., Momence, Ill. U.S. and Foreign Types.
- M. H. Bolender, NR-174, 1126 Benson Blvd., Freeport, Ill. Dealer.
- Harry X. Boosel, R-239, 1623 East 55th Street. U.S. Proofs and General.
- Fred C. C. Boyd, NR-117, Ringoes, N.J.
- Alden Scott Boyer, R-7, 845 Drexel Square.
- Marie Boyer, A-65, 845 Drexel Square.
- Elston G. Bradfield, R-468, 21 West Ohio Street. U.S. Coins.
- George H. Bridges, R-469, 330 S. Wells Street.
- Earl C. Brown, R-418, 7005 S. Normal Blvd. General U.S. and Foreign.
- Flora M. Brown, A-266, 1174 N. Los Robles Ave., Pasadena 6, Calif.
- George F. Brown, NR-31, 1174 N. Los Robles Ave., Pasadena 6, Calif.
- Helen P. Brown, A-463, 7005 S. Normal Blvd. Small coins.
- Harry H. Bruce, R-411, 222 West Adams Street.
- Louis V. Bruggner, R-422, 311 N. Main Street, South Bend 8, Ind. Civil War tokens and Merchants' Cards.
- Paul F. Brumm, R-264, P.O. Box 6, Cicero 50, Ill. U.S.—Foreign Crowns.
- Stanley Buck, R-442, 5919 W. Diversey Ave. Gold Coins, Lincoln and Indian Cents, and Nickels.
- Fred Burnham, R-290, 8110 St. Lawrence Ave. U.S. Coins.
- Richard McP. Cabeen, R-338, 1029 N. Dearborn Street. U.S. One and Three Dollar Gold; Fractional Currency; Minor California Gold.
- Robert C. Cahall, R-352, 933—171st Street, Hammond, Ind. 20th Century Types of the World.
- Michael P. Carey, NR-25, 1218 Mullen Ave., Los Angeles 6, Calif. One coin from each foreign country and Imperial Roman bronze.
- C. Sam Carlson, R-221, 4615 N. Keystone Avenue. Swedish coins and medals.
- Dr. H. D. Cartmell, R-455, 4750 Sheridan Road. U.S. Silver Coins, Uncirculated, and Extra Fine.
- Fred I. Catalano, R-384, 811 S. Oakley Blvd.

G. W. Christian, R-421, 4001 Clausen Ave., Western Springs, Ill.
 Fred A. Clarke, R-337, 840 Bonnie Brae, River Forest, Ill.
 G. W. P. Cleary, R-228, 1615 Gregory Street. General.
 Col. James W. Curtis, R-475, 515 East Capitol Ave., Springfield, Ill. U.S. Pat-
 terns and Half Cents.
 Anthony Cusentino, R-461, 1403 Sedgwick Street. Foreign; General U.S.
 Mrs. Frances Davis, A-84, 3220 S. Michigan Ave.
 Dr. Edwin J. De Costa, R-444, 5312 Woodlawn Avenue. Ancient and U.S.
 David R. Denis, R-477, 1044 Tower Road, Winnetka, Ill. U.S. Types.
 James L. Doak, R-393, 831 Wilson Ave. U.S. Postage and Fractional Cur-
 rency.
 Thomas E. Donnelly, R-348, 35 N. Dearborn Street.
 Ben C. Dreiske, R-291, 72 W. Washington Street. Dealer.
 Wilton R. Dudley, R-241, 2031 Balmoral Avenue.
 Matthew Eisenbeis, R-307, 4044 School Street.
 Edward Eisler, R-479, 5335 Carpenter, Downers Grove, Ill. U.S. Type Coins.
 Elton M. Eversole, R-391, 929 So. St. John Avenue, Highland Park, Ill. Large
 Copper Cents and Fractional Currency.
 Louis Fisher, R-385, Box 711, Gary, Indiana.
 C. G. Franklin, R-460, 5707 Kenwood Avenue. Civil War Tokens.
 Clarence F. Frase, R-254, 904 N. Forest Avenue, Oak Park, Ill. U.S. Coins
 and Paper Money.
 Albert J. Frendahl, R-365, P.O. Box 1784. Commemorative Coins of the U.S.A.
 James A. Friberg, R-269, 6110 Stony Island Avenue. U.S. Paper Money.
 Loyd B. Gettys, NR-402, c/o Mutual Life Ins. Co., Davenport, Iowa.
 John Giello, R-473, 4739 W. Flournoy Street. U.S. Commemorative Halves,
 U.S. Coins (General), Medals.
 Deloss Andrews Grant, R-417, 1400 Lake Shore Drive, Apt. 21 East.
 Charles E. Green, R-223, 413 Blackhawk Street. General.
 Ruth Green, A-311, 413 Blackhawk Street. Small Gold Coins of the World.
 Clyde L. Grimm, R-437, 1039 S. Lyman Avenue, Oak Park, Illinois.
 Elmer W. Gustafson, R-404, 4933 E. Parkway, Downers Grove, Illinois. U.S.
 Coins—Uncirculated and Proof.
 Ray Haggenjos, R-452, 2245 S. 56th Avenue, Cicero, Ill. Civil War Tokens and
 Cards; Hard Times Tokens.
 Herbert R. Hedman, R-298, 1158 Armitage Avenue.
 Ferdinand E. Heimberger, R-424, 1748 N. Tripp Avenue.
 Harold Henry, R-279, 2409 E. 76th Street.
 Cliff Hewitt, R-407, 5450 N. Clark Street. General.
 Lee F. Hewitt, R-215, 5450 N. Clark Street. Type Coins of the World.
 George W. Howe, R-362, 7101 W. Grand Avenue.
 E. O. Hutchins, R-428, Route No. 1, Waukegan, Ill.
 Helen Jackson, A-276, 5492 Cornell Avenue.
 M. H. Jackson, R-122, 5492 Cornell Avenue.
 Edward Johnson, R-405, 7526 Phillips Ave. U.S. Proof and Unc., and Ancient.
 Ernest Jonas, R-18, 3043 No. California Avenue. Silesia Copper and Silver;
 Foreign Crowns.
 Charles V. Jones, NR-300, 5838 Fayette Street, Los Angeles 42, Cal. General
 U.S. Coins and Crown size coins of the world.
 Nellie Josephson, NR-69, 1198 Lakeview Avenue, Detroit, Michigan.
 H. C. Kammeyer, R-341, 619 S. Lincoln Street, Hinsdale, Ill.

James M. Keevers, R-423, 9821 S. Hoyne Avenue.
 Arthur B. Kelley, NR-356, 4314 Olive Street, St. Louis 8, Mo. General.
 Harold R. Klein, R-306, First National Bank, Hinsdale, Ill. General.
 I. T. Kopicki, R-124, 2142 Marshall Blvd. U.S. Coins and Paper Money, also Lincoln medals.
 Pearl C. Kopicki, A-303, 2142 Marshall Blvd. General.
 Robert Kracher, R-259, 5129 N. Keating Avenue.
 Frank Kratovil, R-467, 5420 W. 22nd Place, Cicero 50, Ill.
 Walter Krauss, R-435, 428 N. Waller Avenue.
 Elsie Kujawa, A-390, 3401 S. 58th Avenue, Cicero 50, Ill. Lincoln Cents.
 John Kujawa, R-364, 3401 S. 58th Avenue, Cicero 50, Ill. Lincoln Cents.
 LeRoy Kurtzeborn, R-457, 1358 Sedgwick Street. Mint type sets of countries of the world.
 Edmund E. Lamb, R-278, 10148 S. Seeley Avenue.
 Katherine Lamb, A-378, 10148 S. Seeley Avenue.
 William N. Lasky, R-392, 6230 N. Claremont Avenue. U.S. and Foreign.
 Sam Lazar, R-440, 1855 S. Karlov Avenue.
 James H. Lee, R-474, 209 S. State Street. General—U.S., Foreign and Ancient.
 Gus H. Lind, R-380, 1838 W. Adams Street. Foreign.
 Clifford Lindall, R-270, 1451 E. 77th Street. U.S. Silver and Bronze Coins and Patterns.
 Mabel Lindall, A-388, 1451 E. 77th Street.
 Edgar W. Lister, R-386, 4929 Washington St., Downers Grove, Ill. U.S. General.
 L. Cecil Love, R-350, 6555 N. Spokane Avenue. U.S. Silver Dollars, Trade Dollars, Early Halves.
 Arthur E. Luessow, R-450, 1410 N. Ridgeway Avenue. U.S. Coins.
 Geraldine McBrien, A-294, 7418 S. Kingston Avenue.
 R. L. McBrien, R-253, 7418 S. Kingston Avenue.
 J. V. McDermott, R-430, 317 Marquette Avenue, South Milwaukee, Wis. U.S.
 Agnella B. McEvilly, R-268, 410 W. Webster Avenue.
 Arthur N. Malm, R-398, 8019 Rhodes Ave., U.S. Paper Money, U.S. General.
 Bruno Marek, R-256, 2219 N. Seeley Avenue.
 B. Max Mehl, NR-32, P.O. Drawer 1480, Ft. Worth, Texas.
 Howard W. Merideth, M.D., R-478, 1432 Granville Avenue. Old U.S. Coins.
 Caroline Merkel, A-382, 7816 Cregier Avenue.
 Joseph E. Merkel, R-400, 7816 Cregier Avenue.
 Paul Michael, R-413, 2758 N. Monticello Avenue. Freak Coins—Gold & Silver.
 Stephen Mielcarek, NR-135, 7433 Harvard Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio.
 Harry B. Miller, R-438, 4203 W. 26th Street. U.S. Coins.
 J. E. Millizen, R-451, 518 N. Grove Avenue, Oak Park, Ill. U.S. Coinage.
 Imre Molnar, R-416, 1033 W. Van Buren Street. Crowns of the world; modern base metal coins.
 Albert W. Morris, NR-10, 54 Buckingham Street, Springfield 4, Mass. U.S. and England Gold and Silver.
 J. D. Mortenson, R-433, 3000 Kilborn Ave., Rockford, Ill.
 Thomas Motis, R-465, 2126 Wenonah Avenue, Berwyn, Ill. U.S. Coins, Commemorative Half Dollars, Gold Commemorative Coins.
 John A. Mulder, R-449, 2043 W. VanBuren Street. Large Cents and U.S. Gold.
 Charles Musil, R-406, 6104 W. 26th Street. Foreign Crowns and Gold Ducats.
 Paul L. Obis, R-470, 2535 N. Seminary Avenue. American Coins.

Noble E. Olson, R-462, 434 N. Menard Avenue. U.S. Coins.
 Myrtle Opfer, NR-381, 1317 Lincolnway West, South Bend, Ind.
 Glenn R. Ostrander, R-314, 8037 Maryland Avenue.
 George A. Palmquist, R-453, 7 S. Chester Avenue, Park Ridge, Ill.
 Earling H. Pederson, R-446, 710 S. Humphrey Avenue, Oak Park, Ill. U.S.
 Gladys Pennington, A-389, 940 Maple Street, Evanston, Ill.
 Paul Pennington, R-321, 208 W. Washington Street. Greek and Roman.
 Edward F. Plaspole, R-379, 608 S. Dearborn Street.
 Theodore F. Pokorney, R-434, 6231 N. Washtenaw Avenue. U.S. Types.
 Claude B. Pound, R-358, 4114 Catalpa Street, East Chicago, Ind.
 M. A. Powills, R-180, 9645 S. Leavitt Street. Oriental Coins, particularly India
 and Siam.
 Dallas R. Puffer, R-415, Bartlett, Illinois.
 James P. Randall, R-345, 341 So. Dearborn Street. A dealer in coins of all
 countries; a collector of U.S. obsolete bank notes.
 Ora Nye Rayson, A-304, 659 Wrightwood Avenue. Small Coins of the World.
 William G. Rayson, R-220, 659 Wrightwood Avenue. British Coins.
 Lewis M. Reagan, NR-436, 1056 N. Market Street, Wichita 5, Kans. General.
 Dr. Joseph P. Reich, R-328, 1308 E. 54th Street. Silesia, Medicine, Napoleon I,
 Romans.
 Theodore H. Rich, R-464, 6604 S. Maplewood Avenue. U.S. Silver Commemora-
 tives and Silver Dollars.
 Anna M. Ripstra, A-28, 2126 Gladys Avenue. General.
 J. Henri Ripstra, R-9, 2126 Gladys Avenue. Medals and U.S.
 Thomas F. Robinson, R-374, 5716 S. Seeley Avenue.
 Leif Ronning, R-186, 331 S. Dearborn Street. Dealer.
 Richard H. Rosholm, R-429, R.R. 1, Lake Villa, Illinois. Denmark and Norway.
 Arthur Rutz, R-305, 1036 Cleveland Street, Gary, Ind. General—Medals, Cur-
 rency, Martin Luther and Reformation.
 Dr. Charles J. Ryant, Jr., R-369, 716 W. 82nd Street. United States Coins.
 F. K. Saab, R-409, Box 5171 New Post Office Bldg. U.S., Chinese, Odd and
 Curious.
 Burton H. Saxton, NR-439, P.O. Box 548, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Ancient Roman
 1st Bronze, English Silver Crowns.
 W. A. Schneider, R-383, Box 552, Kankakee, Illinois. Coins with historical
 associations.
 George C. Schroeder, R-332, 6442 S. Maplewood Avenue.
 Otto Schubert, R-371, 4933 Magnolia Avenue.
 John S. Schwartz, R-401, 404 W. 77th Street. U.S. Types, Foreign Crowns,
 Commemorates.
 Robert J. Sebesta, R-458, 6932 West 29th St., Berwyn, Ill. U.S. Coinage and
 Foreign in types.
 Marcella L. Sheldon, A-459, 451 Wrightwood Avenue. General.
 M. Vernon Sheldon, R-166, 451 Wrightwood Avenue. Ancient Greek and U.S.
 Thomas F. Shugrue, R-244, 6730 Green Street. General.
 Dr. Leo M. Sigband, R-447, 2351 Geneva Terrace. U.S. Gold.
 G. J. Simons, R-299, 7513 S. Aberdeen Street.
 Dr. E. D. Skeen, R-207, 504 Broadway, Gary, Ind. Indiana Bills and Tokens.
 Glenn B. Smedley, R-443, 6406 Greenwood Ave. Types and Varieties of U.S.,
 also animal coins.
 Marvin R. Spearstone, R-456, 944 Marshall Ave., Bellwood, Ill. U.S. Types.

Charles B. Stearns, Jr., R-471, 914 Crain Street, Evanston, Ill. U.S. All Types and denominations.
 Mrs. Charles B. Stearns, Jr., A-472, 914 Crain Street, Evanston, Ill. U.S. Gold.
 Joseph Stefanko, R-331, 7724 Natchez Ave., Route 1, Oak Lawn, Ill.
 H. A. Sternberg, R-113, 212 N. 4th Street, Dundee, Ill. U.S.
 Arthur M. Stuart, R-425, 420 S. Austin Blvd., Oak Park, Ill.
 Morris Thacker, R-177, 1508 N. Western Ave. General Collection, also tokens of old Chicago, circus, movies and theatres.
 John R. Thetford, R-412, 3351 W. 65th Place.
 Rosemary F. Turner, A-397, 5555 Sheridan Road.
 Tracy L. Turner, Jr., R-394, 5555 Sheridan Road.
 Joseph Unseitig, Jr., R-157, 3240 W. Hirsch Street.
 M. J. Vinicky, R-454, 1628 S. Harding Ave. All U.S. Coins.
 John T. Vorgias, R-427, 181 W. Madison Street.
 Elmer H. Wagner, R-426, 3741 Sheffield Avenue.
 Wyman E. Warren, R-238, 2547 Wilson Avenue. U.S.
 Joseph C. Weidenhoff, R-403, 5107 George Street.
 Paul Weiger, NR-336, 853½ W. 50th Street, Los Angeles 37, Cal.
 Harold B. Wendell, R-476, 325 Fullerton Parkway. U.S. Cents and Silver Dollars and Foreign Crowns.
 Walter H. White, R-243, 4122 N. Drake Ave. U.S. Coins and Commemoratives.
 Frank C. Wilson, R-372, 751 N. Dearborn Street. U.S. General.
 Richard S. Yeoman, R-396, 3619 Graceland Blvd., Racine, Wis. U.S. General.
 Manuel Zeedyk, R-466, 4637 W. 19th Street, Cicero 50, Ill. United States Copper and Silver Coins.

(182 members as of October 20, 1947)

IN MEMORIAM

RAGNAR L. CEDERLUND

CCC—140 ANA—3164

On June 15th, 1947, our old friend, Ragnar L. Cederlund passed on to the great beyond at the age of 57 years. He came to the U.S. from his native Sweden. He served overseas in World War I. He was a member of Chicago Coin Club, the American Numismatic Association and various other organizations.

His main collecting interest was Numismatics. At one time he possessed an outstanding collection of siege and necessity coins of the world. But other fields of coin collecting were not neglected. To mention one, his Swedish collection, was one of the largest in the country, embracing the coinage of silver and copper, including the copper plates.

Jenny Lind—anything struck, printed or written, was his latest hobby.

He was the author of several articles in *The Numismatist* and of numerous papers read at meetings of our club.

While not unexpected, it was nevertheless a shock, when the news of his death came. Those of us who visited him off and on did not expect it so soon. He was ailing for more than two years. Numismatics lost a great collector and we who knew him, a true and loyal friend.

He was a collector of the old school. His knowledge of numismatics was

remarkable. He was always willing to help a beginner as well as a fellow collector with his problems in a most cheerful manner.

I knew Ragnar for over 30 years. He then collected "coins," particularly Siege Coins. In this field he was really an expert. His collection of Russian Jefinki was probably the largest in the country; perhaps in any private collection. He loved his coins.

About one month before his death I visited him and we talked numismatics for over two hours and looked over various series of his coins. On leaving him, he said to me smiling pleasantly, his voice barely above a whisper, "Well, I had a coin meeting after all." This was the last time I saw him. On June 15th I received a phone message, "Ragnar just passed away—" E.J.

BURDETTE G. JOHNSON

CCC—74

ANA—473

Burdette G. Johnson died of a heart attack without previous illness on February 24th, 1947, at the age of 62. He was on a street car on his way to the office at the time of his death.

Mr. Johnson was the proprietor of the St. Louis Stamp and Coin Company which was established in 1897. For many years his office was on the fifth floor at 408 Olive Street, St. Louis, Mo. About two years ago his office was moved to the fourth floor where he had an attractively remodeled office. He carried a large stock of coins much of which was kept in bank vaults. Shortly before his death he became affiliated with L. S. Forrer, Ltd. of London, England.

Mr. Johnson was a recognized authority on all phases of numismatics. He had handled many Roman and Egyptian hoards and many valuable collections and rare coins had passed through his hands for appraisal or sale. He seldom attended coin club meetings or A.N.A. Conventions. Most of his business was with dealers and advanced collectors but he would take time to talk to a new collector as well.

Many of our club members knew Mr. Johnson. Probably his closest friend was Mr. Arthur B. Kelley of St. Louis who is a member of Chicago Coin Club.

The numismatic fraternity has lost an able man and he will be greatly missed.
—Chicago Coin Club.

ALBERT F. MADLENER

CCC—23

ANA—1889

Albert F. Madlener, a Charter Member of Chicago Coin Club, died October 2, 1947 at the age of 79.

He was a former chairman of Grant Hospital, a founder of the Cosmopolitan State Bank and active in the Geneva (Wis.) Fresh Air Association. Until 1911, when he withdrew to handle private investments, he was head of the distilling firm which bears his name.

He was a member of the Commercial Club of Chicago, the Chicago Athletic Association, the Chicago Historical Society and the American Numismatic Association.

He collected English coins and U.S. Gold, including Territorial Gold and had many fine specimens. Although Mr. Madlener had not attended our meetings for many years and was known by only a few of our older members, he still retained his membership in the club. We extend our sincere sympathy to his widow and family.
—Chicago Coin Club

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Members of the Chicago Coin Club are permitted to borrow any books from the library for a period of one month. This is your library.

Adams-Woodin—U.S. Pattern, Trial and Experimental Pieces. 1913.

American Numismatic Society—Exhibit of U.S. and Colonial Coins. 1914.

Donated by Wm. Dunham.

A.N.S.—Numismatic Notes and Monographs. Bound separately in flexible leatherette. Binding donated by C. Lou Snyder.

No. 4—Mexican Revolutionary Coinage 1913-1916—by Howland Wood.

No. 64—A Hoard from Siphnos—by Edward T. Newell.

No. 65—Romano-British Imitations of Bronze Coins of Claudius I—by C. H. V. Sutherland.

No. 88—A Puerto Rican Counterstamp—by Jaime Gonzalez.

No. 89—Mexican Decorations of Honour—by Harrold E. Gillingham.

No. 90—Temples of Rome as Coin Types—by Donald F. Brown.

No. 91—The Earlier Staters of Heraclea Lucaniae—by Eunice Work.

No. 92—A Tarsus Coin Collection in the Adana Museum—by D. H. Cox.

No. 93—Foreign Imitations of the English Noble—by Herbert E. Ives.

No. 94—Gold and Silver Coin Standards in the Roman Empire—by Louis C. West.

No. 95—The Silver Dollars of the United States of America—by Arthur D. McIlvaine.

No. 96—Kolophon and its Coinage; A Study—by J. C. Milne.

No. 97—The Endicott Gift of Greek and Roman Coins, Including the "Catacombs" Hoard—by Sawyer McA. Mosser.

No. 98—Medals of the U.S. Army Medical Department and Medals Honoring Army Medical Officers—by Edgar Erskine Hume. (unbound).

No. 99 to 110 inclusive describing various subjects in the same manner as those above. All unbound.

A.N.S.—The proceedings of the American Numismatic Society from 1940 to 1946 inclusive.

A.N.A.—The Numismatist from 1937 to 1946 inclusive all bound in red binding.

Auction Catalogues (Foreign)—Eight volumes bound with about five catalogues to each volume, mostly all with beautiful plates and some priced.

Auction Catalogues—Foreign

Ball, Robert—Roman and Greek Coins—Feb. 1932—priced.

Hamburger, Leo—Polish Coins. 1932—priced.

Holmberg, D.—Fifty Year Jubilee Auction—not priced.

Kraus, F. F.—European Coin Sale, 1929—priced.

Glendenin & Co., Ltd.—Catalogue of Peltzer Collection of American Coins. Gift of Geo. Brown.

Auction Catalogues and Price Lists—American

Allen, Chesley J.—Price List of U.S. Coins and Paper Money, 1932, bound.

Anderson Art Gallery—Morosini, Guilia P. Gold Collection—1932, priced.

Chapman, H. C.—John G. Mills sale of 1904; H. B. Smith sale of 1906;

- Stickney sale of 1907, all bound in one volume and priced. Gift of Chas. E. Green.
- Chapman, H. C.—Jackman and Bement Sale of June 28, 29, 1918.
- Mehl, B. Max—Catalogue of Dr. French Collection of Cents—1929.
- Mehl, B. Max—Catalogue of D. Thos. Rees Collection, plates and priced. 1928.
- Mehl, B. Max—Catalogue of E. E. Wright Collection. 1925. Priced. Donated by Geo. Brown.
- Mehl, B. Max—Catalogue of Morse, Faelton & Todd Collection, 1936. Leather bound, plates and priced—gift of B. Max Mehl.
- Mehl, B. Max—Catalogue of W. F. Dunham Collection 1941, priced.
- Mehl, B. Max—Catalogue of Will W. Neil Collection 1947, priced.
- Numismatic Gallery—Catalogued by A. Kosoff and Abner Kreisberg, and described as the World's Greatest Collection of U.S. Silver Coins. Bound in fine binding. Donated by authors.
- Stack's—Reinhold Faelten Collection of Ancients, Jan. 1938. Plates and priced. Gift of M. Vernon Sheldon.
- Stack's—Numismatic Guide—Two books, bound with cuts and prices.
- Morgenthau—Sale No. 352, Sept. 11, 12, 1935—priced.
- Beistle, M. L.—Half Dollar Die Varieties. 1929.
- Blake, George H.—United States Paper Money. 1918.
- Brough, Wm.—Natural Law of Money. 1894.
- Burks, P. D.—Fire Side Yarns—1001 Nites with the Old Coin Man. 1932. Gift of the author.
- Case, R. E.—Nickel Coinage. Autographed copy.
- Crosby, S. S.—U.S. Cents and Half Cents; Coinage of 1793. Bound with plates. Two copies donated by Chas. E. Green and Lee Hewitt.
- Davis, A.M.—Certain Old Chinese Notes. 1915.
- Davis, R. Edward—Early Illinois Paper Money. 1940.
- Dickinson, W. E.—Old United States Coins. Autographed copy.
- Doughty, F. W.—United States Cents. 1890. Bound and with plates. 2 copies.
- Dollars of the World and Index. 1939. Gift of M. Vernon Sheldon.
- Dunham, W. F.—Easy Finding List. 1930.
- Dunham, Chester—Canadian Coins and Tokens. 1908.
- Evans, G. G.—History of the U.S. Mint. 1889.
- Frost, Harwood—Evolution of the Dollar. 1927. Gift of the author.
- Gilbert, C.—U.S. Half Cents. 1916.
- Gilbert & Elder—U.S. Half Cents.
- Gilbert & Elder—U.S. Cents of 1796.
- Green, C. E. and Lee Hewitt—Mint Records of U.S. Coins. 1933.
- Green, C. E.—Mint Record and Type Table U.S. Coins. 1937.
- Green, C. E.—Mint Record of U.S. Coins. Gift of author.
- Gresham, O.—The Greenback. 1927. Donated by R. H. Rosholm.
- Guttag Bros.—Hard Times Tokens.
- Haines, Howard Wright—The First Money Making Device.
- Haseltine, J. W.—Type Table of U.S. Coins with Cat. of Coins & Medals. 1882.
- Haskins, F. J.—Everybody's Coin Book, 1st Edition, 2nd Revised Edition.
- Hetrich-Guttag—Civil War Tokens and Store Cards. 1924.
- Hewitt Bros.—Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine from 1938 to 1941 and 1943. Donated by Fred A. Clarke. All bound.
- Hewitt, Lee F.—Numismatic Scrapbook.

Hewitt, Lee F.—U.S. Large Cents. Auction Sale Prices Realized in 1933-34.
 Holst, Hans—Numismatica 1928.
 Katz, Dr. Victor—A Thousand Years of Bohemian Official Coinage. 1929.
 Lee, Frederic E.—Currency, Banking and Finance in China. 1926.
 Money Talks—by Canadian Numismatic Society.
 Mond Nickel Co.—History of the Nickel Coinage.
 Newlin, H. P.—Early Half Dimes of the U.S. 1883.
 Nickel Coinage of Japan.
 Oregon Trail Mem. Ass'n—America's Historical Opportunity.
 Prime, W. C.—Money of the Bible. Donated by L. Ronning.
 Rackus, Dr. Al. M.—Guthones (The Goths). 1929.
 Raymond, Wayte—Standard Cat. of Early American Coins 1652-1796. Bound. Plates.
 Rentzmann, W.—Wappen Lexicon—2 Vol. Very large book with plates. 1924. Gift of Geo. Brown.
 Schulman, Hans M. F. and H. W. Holzer—The Coin Collectors Almanac 1946. Donated by the authors.
 Schultz, W. F.—Fractional Currency.
 Scott & Co.—Catalogue of U.S. Paper Money. 1894.
 Catalogue Copper Coins of the World. 1916. No. 2.
 Catalogue Gold and Silver Coins of the World. 1916.
 Catalogue Colonial, U.S. Copper, Silver, Gold; Private Issues and Paper. 1930-34.
 Standard Catalogue of U.S. Coins and Currency. 1936.
 Sellers, O. R.—The Citadel of Beth-Zur. Gift of author.
 Smithsonian Institute—Report of the U.S. National Museum. 1935-39. 2 vol.
 Spink & Son—Numismatic Circulars—1934 to 1938, some years complete.
 Storer, Malcolm—Naval Medal Collection Catalogue at Annapolis. 1936.
 Studley, George W.—Regulation War Medals.
 Pond, Shepard—The Piastre-Decaen, 1810.
 Treasury Dept.—Sec'y of Treas. Report, 1855, 1856. Donated by P.S. Stevens.
 Venn, Theodore J.—Three Dollar Gold, Large U.S. Cents, U.S. Half Cents, Two-cent Bronzes.
 Venn, Theodore J.—Large U.S. Cents, 1915. (Two copies). No. 10-11.
 Venn, Theodore J.—United States Half Cents. 1916. Donated by Elmer Lawless.
 Venn, Theodore J.—United States Coins. 1913-21.
 Webb, E. O.—Our Metallic Money, 1936. (2 copies).
 Westervelt, Leonidas—Jenny Lind Medals and Tokens. 1921.
 Wismer, D. C.—Obsolete Paper Money List of New York. 1931. Gift of author.
 Wright, Dr. B. P.—Masonic Chapter Pennies, 3rd Edition. Donated by L. Ronning.
 Wyllie, Col. R. F.—Orders, Decorations and Insignia.
 Wyllys, Betts—The Battle of Rhode Island.
 Boston Numismatic Society—1928.
 Whitman Publ. Co.—Handbook of U.S. Coins. 1st and 2nd edition. By Yeoman, Hewitt and Green. Gift of Authors.
 Yeoman, R. S.—A Guide Book of U.S. Coins, 1947. Donated by the author.

There are many catalogues and pamphlets that have accumulated as well as the collection of Bulletins of the Club which at one time was issued three times a year.

Once In A Life Time

“Hermit’s Gold Coins Sold For \$30,000”

By JAMES H. LEE

The following article by T. Glenn Harrison, Staff Writer, appeared in the St. Paul Sunday Pioneer Press on June 16, 1946:

“This is a story about money. It is a straightaway factual account of how money can grow into imposing sums and control the thinking of the men it owns. And it presents, too the problem of what to do with money accumulated without records and hoarded through two generations without passing on to Caesar the large slices that modern Caesars have come to expect.

“Of course humans are involved. They always are where money is to be found. And this story begins back in 1872 when Timothy Curran and his wife moved to Minnesota from Ishpeming, Mich., where he had been a miner.

“They had mighty little money, these two Currans. So little in fact that they rented a farm just outside of Green Isle and with a brother, Dennis, began the task of pinching money from the soil.

“And they did. Five years later they had enough money and credit to purchase the first few acres of what is now a splendid 300-acre farm.

“Then the children began to come. Nine of them arrived in that little farm house that just a few weeks ago was discovered to be the repository of \$198,250 in coin, currency, bonds and bank certificates of deposit.

“Dennis was the first born. Then came Mary, John, Hannah, Michael, Timothy, Cornelius, Daniel and William, in that order.

“Dennis was born with an itchy foot. He and Hannah went West when they grew up. Both married. Dennis fathered two daughters, Lucile and Marion. Hannah, although twice married, never became a mother. None of the other children married.

“All the time, each year, the money grew. As fast as it grew more acres were purchased and greater mortgages assumed. Then, about 50 years ago, the final mortgage was paid off.

“That scene, in the unpainted wooden house, must have been a dramatic one. Perhaps a family council was held. Maybe it wasn’t anything as formal as that. But the outcome was decisive because no more acres were purchased.

“Money began to take hold of that household. Gold coin and gold-backed currency held the spotlight. Certificates of deposit were taken, even though reluctantly. In the 1933 bank holiday, when gold and gold certificates were called in, this family turned in the certificates but held on to the \$14,370 in \$5, \$10 and \$20 coins. This was hid in the mouldy, musty cellar. An additional \$1,000 was hid in silver dollars.

“When one would die, among the seven children who had remained in the Green Isle household, he, or she, would leave a will bequeathing that person’s share of the money and farm to the rest. But not one of these wills was ever probated. Never did one of these seven file an income tax return with the state or federal government. And the money in the house pyramided.

“Last month Daniel, the last of that branch of the Currans, sunk his ax into a tree he was chopping for firewood and the blow coincided with a final beat of his heart. He died there, within sight of the old home and only about 200 feet from the highway.

"Hours later, after he was missed at church, a search party found his body. Leaders of the party, knowing the secretiveness of the Currans and sensing a fortune was hid, immediately began the hunt. Nearly \$100,000 was found in a few hours.

"The two nieces, Mrs. Lucile Higgens of Spokane, Wash., and Mrs. Marion Ingram of Seattle, Wash., flew to Green Isle to attend the funeral and to take charge of the estate.

"But federal and state income tax officials began to probe into the estate and when it was discovered no income tax returns had been made and no wills had ever been probated, and thus no inheritance taxes paid, the two women returned to their homes.

"James F. Mullen and Harold Curran, a second cousin, both of Green Isle, have been named special administrators of the Daniel Curran estate and probably will be named in charge of the estates of those who died before Daniel.

"In the meantime in the vaults of the Green Isle Security State bank lie the gold, the silver, the currency, the bonds and the certificates of deposit.

"No one, so far, has been able to figure out the tangled affair.

"If the Currans had been bookkeepers as well as farmers and financiers the thing would be easy—but no records have been found to show how and when the large accumulations were made.

"Attorneys shake their heads, income tax officers purse their lips and shudder at the long period of investigation that may lie ahead—and neighbors wonder if all the money has been found.

"But they all know that large chunks will be taken out of the fortune by the income tax and inheritance tax the Currans ignored."

* * *

On January 13, 1947, in the St. Paul Dispatch, in large type on the first page the story was picked up as follows:

"DISPATCH NEWS SERVICE"

"Green Isle, Minn.—Shrewdness of a small town bank cashier has raised the value of a hermit's estate by more than \$15,000, it was revealed here today.

"When Probate Judge Einard A. Rogstad of Sibley county signed an order approving sale of \$14,370 (face value) in gold coins to a Chicago coin collector and broker for \$30,000, it ended what for a time was the most intensive gold hunt in the history of Minnesota.

"The search, led by James F. Mullen, cashier of the Green Isle State bank, began last May 18 when Dan Curran's body was discovered on the farm where he had lived as a recluse many years.

"Mullen, a close friend of the Curran family, and other searchers uncovered nearly \$200,000 in gold, war bonds and securities secreted in almost fantastic hideaways in the aged farmhouse and garden.

"Named temporary administrator of the estate with C. Stanley McMahon of Winona, Mullen knew that gold coins had been called in by the Treasury, which imposed heavy penalties on hoarders. Realizing, however, that the discovered coins had a much greater value to numismatists, Mullen sought government permission to sell the coins and checked offers from many coin dealers.

"A trip to Washington and a series of conferences won Treasury department permission to sell the gold to James H. Lee of Chicago, nationally known collector and broker. Lee is a former St. Paul man and for many years was secretary of the St. Paul Rotary club.

"With sale of the gold for \$30,000, Curran's estate now is valued at \$227,729, with several small additions yet to be added.

"Two nieces, Mrs. Lucille Higgins of Spokane and Mrs. Marion Ingram of Seattle, are heirs to the estate, but how much they will receive has not been decided.

"A government check showed no inheritance taxes had ever been paid following deaths of other members of the Curran family, whose funds also are included in the estate."

* * *

The above press quotations are more than a mere story covering the life span of a small community farmer and his family or the "Hermit's Gold Coins Sold For \$30,000," but is a coin collector's experience, generously colored with romance that happens "ONCE IN A LIFE TIME."

However, aside from this remarkable find, certain experiences were encountered by the executors of this estate. A series of correspondence ensued between them and the Federal Reserve at Minneapolis, Minn., for the purpose of ascertaining a proper interpretation of the Gold Act of 1933.

Going back some 30 years ago, I was Secretary of the St. Paul Rotary Club. My identity still being quite vivid in the minds of my old colleagues, I was called into this case on the premise, and pleasantly accused, of being an authority on numismatics. Whether such a charge was justified or not is beside the point, suffice to say that my services were engaged.

A certified inventory was made to determine the numismatic value, if any, of each individual piece, which consisted of the following coins:

474 Double Eagles

292 Eagles

420 Half Eagles

Out of the entire lot of 1186 pieces, 6 Double Eagles and 3 Half Eagles were certified as being of no numismatic value.

As a result of additional correspondence and subsequently a conference in Washington, a letter was received under date of October 15, 1946, over the signature of Leland Howard, Acting Director of the Mint, confirming my certification and authorizing the executors of the Daniel Curran Estate to proceed to hold, or sell this find.

The coins in their entirety (excluding the 9 pieces) were subsequently purchased by me. This was an experience that can happen, "ONCE IN A LIFE TIME."

The Quest Is The Thing

By R. S. YEOMAN

It's peculiar when you come to think of it. Nobody really catches the collecting fever by looking at the coins in his pocket. He has to discover an accumulation of coins in a trunk or old bureau drawer placed there by his grandfather before he experiences those hot flashes of romance and adventure intermingled with a secret thrill that he has stumbled upon at least a small fortune. It could happen to you—and it probably did.

The fellow down at the bank who looks them up in his premium book does not mean to be disrespectful when he checks over the battered and worn

large cents, two-cent pieces, Indian cents, etc., but honestly they aren't worth any more than face value—sorry. This is the crisis—if the fever breaks, our hero goes away and slams the door on numismatics, or he never fully recovers and the fever lingers for life. Who can say which is the better fate? Actually our viewpoint is one-sided and is inclined to be intolerant of the door-slammer.

An experience such as this often brings out the basic human quality of the dreamer, the true collector. To go on from what to an ordinary mortal would be a bitter dose, and make his quest a personal plan of numismatic achievement is the stamp of the true coin collector. Have you noticed, too, that the neophyte has to decide this vital step secretly and alone? He is usually surrounded by unbelievers who see only the symptoms of the disease but none of the lure and fascination of his transfiguration. The fact is, of course, that he suffers no malady he only looks, acts and feels as though he is unwell. He is as sound as a dollar (brilliant uncirculated, that is).

As our new numismatist-in-the-making steps timidly over the threshold he is impelled partly by an instinctive human desire to accumulate, to search out the missing dates, mintmarks to complete a set. It's perfectly natural to fill in those missing spaces. If someone knocked out one of your front teeth, you'd be in the dentist chair within the hour. Why? You would be satisfying your sense of completeness, of course. A collector approaches numismatic maturity when he studies his individual coins and reads about their histories to know their significance. He exercises discrimination, investing in only select examples of coin types and even full sequences of dates if he should be so inclined. He is more and more "condition" conscious. If possible he joins a coin club, or he may organize one.

He builds for himself a numismatic library selecting at first those standard references which are general in scope. He subscribes to at least one numismatic publication, joins the American Numismatic Association and avails himself of their library service. He accumulates back numbers of coin publications, as well as new and old auction catalogs, preferably with plates. He keeps posted on current prices by purchasing annually published premium and standard catalogs, using them as check lists for his personal collection, and as an aid to selecting new purchases.

He keeps everlastingly at his hobby. He learns from experience and his reward is a full appreciation of the coiner's art and a sort of nodding acquaintance with the history represented to him by the small, bright bits of metal he peers at through his magnifying glass.

Up to this point he has laid the groundwork, and has broadened his numismatic horizon according to his leisure time and inclination. The time comes when he will settle back and carefully select a specialty. His individual taste, education, and economic condition will dictate his numismatic future. He never lacks for new fields to conquer. Twenty-seven centuries of numismatic history offers a limitless reservoir of study and pleasure. The mature numismatist has perhaps changed his specialty several times, but he never relinquishes his associations with all things numismatic.

Numismatics had a beginning, but there is no ending. For the numismatist, there is a lifetime of a special kind of adventure and romance. The quest goes on.

One Hundred Years Ago

By IMRE MOLNAR

A pale faced young man, with eyes burning from excitement and lack of sleep, was standing on a platform before a delirious throng, holding a crumpled piece of paper in his hand. The date was March 15th, 1848; the place was on the steps of the National Museum in the city of Pest; the young man was Petöfi Sándor, acknowledged as one of the five greatest poets of all times; the piece of paper contained his immortal ode on the newly won freedom of the Magyar nation, which he composed the night before—and the “glorious revolution” was on.

The year 1848 was certainly the most remarkable one in the history of Europe during the century which started on June 18, 1815 at Waterloo, and ended on June 28, 1914 with the pistol shots in Sarajevo. Through all previous years a slow fire was simmering, with small flames leaping out now and then. And suddenly, on the 24th of February 1848, it burst out in Paris, the city of the great revolutions; and, as if carried by a tornado, it swept across all continental Europe with a speed and vehemence unparalleled in history before or since, demolishing everything which dared to obstruct its path. The franc-tireurs of Paris lead by Louis Blanc chased away the bourgeois king Louis Philippe. Ludwig, king of Bavaria, abdicated on March 20th in a welcome opportunity to escape from his domestic scandals over the attractive dancer Lola Montez. The fanciful and thoroughly scared king of Prussia, Friedrich Wilhelm IV, was bullied into parading on March 21st ahead of the funeral procession of the victims of his police, carrying the black-red-gold flag of the German revolution. In Baden the republic was soon proclaimed. In the ancient coronation-city of Frankfort the German liberal national assembly convened. The reactionary cantons of Switzerland were coaxed to accept a liberal federal constitution. Pope Pius IX was forced to take refuge in Gaeta after his Swiss guard was disbanded by Garibaldi's partizans, and in Rome the republic was proclaimed.

The farther east the revolution swept, the more violent it became; all but consumed the Habsburg empire. March 13th was the beginning of the revolution in Vienna; Metternich, mainstay of European reaction, was swept out within a few hours after forty years of unchallenged power. It reached Pest in two days; it spread to Prague, to Venice, to Milan, and to all corners of the empire. The wave of revolution upset every one of the 39 German states and free cities; and there was hardly a country on the continent which would not have been shaken by it in a greater or lesser degree. Though its power was spent, the tremor was felt on the periphery; in England, Scandinavia, Russia.

But even more remarkable than this irresistible tornado was the way it petered out, leaving behind but a few permanent landmarks (mostly in countries which were progressive before) and a large number of national martyrs slaughtered by the revenging reaction. The democratic constitution remained a permanent institution all through the Swiss confederation, improved as time went along, resisting all challenges up till the present day. Democracy was also strengthened in Denmark; and a few smaller German states became somewhat more liberal compared with their neighbors. But in most countries the results were pitiful, or the reaction even blacker than before.

In France, where everything originated, the republic drifted for four years

under constant squabble, and was taken over by the parvenu and adventurer, Louis Bonaparte. The empire of Napoleon III, which lasted until 1871, was certainly one of the most interesting political curios of the nineteenth century: a fascist police state with all bombastic trimmings, but at the same time the focus of exciting commercial, diplomatic and artistic activities.

Pope Pius IX, curiously enough, has already been reinstated in Rome in 1849 by French republican troops, who crushed the city's heroic defenses directed by Garibaldi himself.

King Friedrich Wilhelm IV, after recovering from his jitters, promptly cleaned up all remnants of his weak moments; chased home the Prussian diet, which assembled under the new constitution; appointed the crown prince to head an executionary force. This he carried out with great efficiency; the forces of the liberal southern states were brutally crushed, the National Assembly of Frankfort driven out, and republican leaders hanged. It was in this period that a great number from among the participants of the German struggle for liberty escaped to the United States, and became prominent citizens helping to consolidate the country; just as almost a century later a large number of their compatriots escaped from the Nazi version of gestapo, and contributed a fair share to the success in this country's fight against the destroyers of freedom.

Probably the most tragic reaction of all was the collapse of the struggle for liberty in the Austrian empire. The revolutionaries of Prague and Vienna were crushed, and so were the insurgents of Italy and Hungary after a heroic resistance. And since the imperial forces were weak, the job had to be done by a Russian steamroller under the terms of the Holy Alliance, and by skillfully exploiting the plight and prejudices of the less civilized nationalities of the Habsburg state. The reaction which followed surpassed anything in existence during the earlier decades of the century, and was eased only after 1867, when the Habsburg empire was tottering again, but this time as a result of her defeat by Prussia and the resurrection of Italy.

The storm passed over without changing much the political landscape, and just as scant are the numismatic landmarks it left behind. The revolutionary government of Hungary issued currency in paper as well as in specie.* The second French republic at first duplicated the coinage of the first one, but between 1849-51 issued new types, with the head of Ceres, designed by Oudine. With the establishment of a centralized confederation, the new Swiss national coinage began in 1850, and is continuing virtually unchanged up to the present time. The Roman Republic issued copper and billon coins in 1849; there is a 5 lire piece in silver of 1848 by the Provisional Government of Lombardy; a silver and copper coinage by the Provisional Government of Venice in 1848-49. King Ludwig I of Bavaria is highly esteemed by numismatists because of his prolific series of commemoratives; he obligingly commemorated his abdication by a double thaler in 1848, which was promptly followed by another one, issued by his son, king Maximilian, in honor of the new constitution.

The pale faced young man, whom we last saw on the steps of the museum, was trampled to death by Russian horseman in the battle of Segesvar a year later, and none of his mortal remains were ever found. As I said before, not many landmarks were left.

* These are discussed in "The Forint," Numismatic Scrapbook Magazine, September 1946.



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